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Illumination or emergency low-level path marking 150 of the predetermined designated area 160 is provided by a strip of electro-luminescent (EL) lamp material approximately two inches wide or of any suitable width which is mounted along the floor or in the vicinity of the baseboard area of a room or other area to provide a visual delineation of the path of egress in an emergency condition or to illuminate an "EXIT" sign placed at floor level. The illumination of the area 160 to be lit by the emergency lighting system is provided from an electro-luminescent (EL) panel strip 100 that is mounted on the wall along the baseboard of a room or other such area required to be lit in accordance with the code requirements to place the required amount of illumination intensity on the floor surface. The emergency lighting system of the present invention overcomes another disadvantage associated with the "bug eye" type emergency lighting systems in which the bug eye lights are typically mounted near the ceiling. In the event of a fire, smoke rises and diffuses and reduces the illumination capabilities of a bug eye emergency light. In contrast, mounting the electro-luminescent (EL) strip on the wall along the baseboard provides light on the floor area where the light is required and such illumination would not be affected by smoke until the room is substantially smoke-filled. In addition, providing the electro-luminescent (EL) strip along the baseboard allows existing building structures to be retrofitted with emergency lighting at a substantial cost savings and time savings over conventional emergency lighting systems using dedicated electrical circuits. Additionally, the emergency lights can be placed specifically where needed such as in interior, windowless rooms, staircase hallways and other such areas. -A